

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 15-18 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 10 and 15-18 are independent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTION

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Schneck et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,498). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Schneck et al. discloses encrypting and decrypting data using certain "rules". *Schneck et al.* utilizes a data-encrypting key K_D which is generated by a general and conventional method, and a rule-encrypting key K_R for encrypting the data-encrypting key K_D and the rules needed to access or decrypt the encrypted data. The distributor 102 of *Schneck et al.* generates both K_D and K_R therein and supplies the same to a user 104.

In clear contrast, Applicants' claimed invention generates an encryption key in the digital data playing device on the basis of an identification number of the data storage medium or an identification number of the digital data playing device, as required by independent claim 1. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by *Schneck et al.* The use of the identification information on the data storage medium or digital data playing device eliminates the need to download the encryption key from an external source such as *Schneck et al.*'s

distributor 102, thereby preventing transmission of the encryption key between devices to enhance the security.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over *Schneck et al.*, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on these reasons is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION

Claims 2-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable by *Schneck et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, *Schneck et al.* does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, “the encryption key is generated in the digital data playing device on the basis of an identification number of the data storage medium or an identification number of the digital data playing device” as recited in independent claim 1 from which claims 2-4 depend.

Regarding other independent claims 5 and 10, *Schneck et al.* generates the data-encrypting key K_D using a general and conventional method. *Schneck et al.* in nowhere discloses or suggests the feature of adding a first internal key to an identification number of a digital data player or data storage medium to generate a first encryption key, as required by independent claims 5 and 10.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to modify *Schneck et al.* to render the claimed invention obvious since none of the prior art discloses or suggests the missing claimed features.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5 and 10 and their dependent claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11-14 are patentable over *Schneck et al.*, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on these reasons is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for decrypting an encrypted digital data file, comprising:

a digital data playing device for receiving the encrypted digital data file, storing the encrypted digital data file in a data storage medium, and decrypting the stored digital data file using an encryption key, wherein

the encryption key is generated in the digital data playing device on the basis of an identification number of the data storage medium or an identification number of the digital data playing device.

2. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the encryption key includes information regarding a manufacturing company or [and] a serial number of the data storage medium or the digital data playing device.

Claims 15-18 have been added.